

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE & WITNESS

ADAPTED FROM:

“Christian Life & Witness Course”

By Billy Graham

Pastor Efrem J. Byrd, Instructor

PART 3

“The Christian Witness”

ASK YOURSELF THESE THINGS BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO WITNESS:

- DO I TRULY BELIEVE IN THE POWER AND SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD?
 - GOD IS BEFORE ALL THINGS
 - **(GENESIS 1:1, PSALM 90:1-2, COLOSSIANS 1:16-17)**
 - GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS
 - **(PSALM 147:4-5, ISAIAH 46:8-10, HEBREWS 4:12-13)**
 - GOD RULES OVER ALL THINGS
 - **(1 CHRONICLES 29:10-13, PSALM 24:1-2)**
- DO I BELIEVE THAT GOD’S POWER CAN WORK THROUGH ME IN SPITE OF MY OWN WEAKNESS AND INADEQUACY?
 - **(ROMANS 8:29-30, EPHESIANS 1:11-12)**
- DO I SINCERELY BELIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD WILL GUIDE ME, MAKE ME COURAGEOUS, AND WORK EFFECTIVELY IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO ADHERE TO THE WORD THAT I SPEAK?
 - **(EZEKIEL 36:22-36, JOHN 16:13-15, 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16)**
- DO I UNDENIABLY BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO NOT ONLY DISCERN THE MATTERS OF THE HEART, BUT ALSO TO CONVICT, TRANSFORM, AND EMPOWER ANYONE?
 - **(1 THESSALONIANS 2:13, 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, HEBREWS 4:12-13, JAMES 1:22)**
- DO I BELIEVE WITH GREAT CONVICTION THAT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION?
 - **(ROMANS 1:16, ROMANS 10:6-13, 1 CORINTHIANS 1:21-25)**

KEEP THESE THINGS IN MIND WHILE WITNESSING:

1. YOUR OWN LIFE SERVES AS A GREAT PART OF YOUR WITNESS.

YOUR LIFE:

- WILL NOT EVER BE PERFECT (WITHOUT FLAW)
- SHOULD SHOW PROGRESSIVE PERFECTION (MATURITY)
- SHOULD COMMEND THE LORD JESUS

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS MOST EFFECTIVELY THROUGH A CLEAN LIFE (2 CORINTHIANS 3:2-3; 4:1-2).

2. TO BE HEARD YOU MUST BE ABLE TO SINCERELY LISTEN.

YOUR CONVERSATION:

- DOES NOT HAVE TO BE DOMINANT
- DOES NOT HAVE TO BE DRIVEN BY A VERBAL WITNESS
- SHOULD SEEK THE NEED OF THE PERSON

LISTENING OFTEN OPENS THE DOOR TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL.

3. WITNESSING IS NOT A PRESENTATION OF A FORMAT, OR A STEP BY STEP PLAN, BUT RATHER THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

YOUR WITNESS:

- MUST BE UNDERGIRDDED BY SCRIPTURE
- SHOULD NOT COME ACROSS AS A FORMULA (SINNER'S PRAYER)
- DOES NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO MOVE SYSTEMICALLY FROM SCRIPTURE TO SCRIPTURE

LEARNING THE WORD OF GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE ABILITY TO TALK A LOT OF SCRIPTURE WITHOUT ALWAYS QUOTING A VERSE.

4. STRESS THE LOVE OF GOD ABOVE THE STRENGTH OF SIN.

YOUR PLEA:

- SHOULD NOT EXPOSE THE PROBLEM OF SIN WITHOUT THE REMEDY TO SIN
- SHOULD GIVE THE LISTENER HOPE AND FREEDOM FROM THE PAIN AND BONDAGE OF SIN
- SHOULD BE FOR THE LISTENER TO ACCEPT THE GIFT OF LIFE THROUGH JESUS

WE ARE PRESENTING A LOVING GOD, SEEN COMPLETELY IN/THROUGH A FAITHFUL SON (JOHN 3:16-17, EPHESIANS 2:8-9).

5. THE COMPLEXITY IS IN THE SIMPLICITY.

YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

- MUST BE GOSPEL CENTERED
- DOES NOT HAVE TO BE DEEP OR UBER INTELLECTUAL
- DOES NOT HAVE TO BE IMPRESSIVE

WHEN WITNESSING, BE CAREFUL TREADING IN THE PHILOSOPHICALLY DEEP WATERS. YOU MAY BE DROWNED BY THE ONES YOU ARE TRYING TO SAVE (JOHN 14:6, 1 CORINTHIANS 1:22-24; 2:1-5, COLOSSIANS 2:8-10).